

Beautiful Countess Lured Men to Death With Charms

The Washington Star's Vienna correspondent says:

No more sensational story has ever been told in fiction or acted in melodrama than that which has been unraveled by the Vienna police in solving the mystery of the murder of Count Kamarsky at Venice a few days ago. Although some details of the crime have doubtless been cabled to America, the story in its entirety is of such dramatic interest that it is well worth telling in full.

It is the story of a beautiful she-devil and the demonic power which her wondrous beauty and powers of fascination enabled her to exercise over men who fell victims to her charms. For the real author of the murder of Count Kamarsky is the Countess Maria Nikolovna Tarnovskaya, who for some time has been dazzling Vienna with her lovely face and magnificent dresses. The other characters in the tragedy were her puppets—men whom love of her had made her pliant slaves, willing for the chance of winning her to risk the gallows in this world and damnation in the next.

The countess is one of those seductive aliens luring men to destruction that you read about in romance novels and then doubt if their counterpart in real life ever exists. She is not yet thirty and she has merely ripened her beauty. Her face gives the lie to psychology. With her deep, soulful eyes she looks angelic. Her beauty, perhaps, is a heritage from her Irish ancestry, for she is descended from a gallant Irishman named O'Rourke, who settled in Russia a hundred years ago.

She was not eighteen when she married Count Tarnovsky, a Russian nobleman of ancient lineage and possessed of large estates. After a few years she tired of her husband and sought herself with a lover. Tiring of him, too, she denounced him in an anonymous letter to the count. The result was the count challenged him and killed him in a duel.

The death of one lover left her free to ensnare others. But Count Tarnovsky's eyes were opened at last, and instead of issuing more challenges to fight duels he procured a divorce. The countess was glad enough to be released from her matrimonial fetters. The process brought her another victim. In the divorce proceedings she employed a Moscow lawyer, M. Prilukoff. At that time Prilukoff was making something like \$30,000 a year, enjoyed an unblemished reputation and was happy in his domestic relations. Prilukoff succumbed to the fascinations of his client. The result was that his law practice went all to pieces, his wife got a divorce from him and he fled from Russia with \$25,000 with which he had been entrusted by clients before he was ensnared in the toils of the countess. Prilukoff tagged after her about Europe.

Before leaving Russia for Europe, Prilukoff had been told by a Russian nobleman, Prince Naumoff, that the countess was a Russian aristocrat. Princes are rather plentiful in Russia and are not necessarily included among the top-notchers of the Russian aristocracy. But the prince had money and that was what counted most with the countess. He tagged after her, too, almost as persistently as Prilukoff, for he was most madly in love with her. His infatuation has cost him \$25,000; his wife is suing him for a divorce, and that he will be hanged hardly admits of question for he was the man who actually killed Count Kamarsky.

In the course of her travels the countess chanced to meet Count Kamarsky, an old acquaintance whom she had lost track of for some time, because the count, as captain of the Cossack guards, had gone to the front in the war against Japan and had there been severely wounded. The count had lots of money and the countess wanted money badly, for Prince Naumoff had about exhausted his immediate resources on her account, and Prilukoff had been dead broke for two years or more.

With the countess, of course, the first preliminary to getting hold of a man's money was to make him fall in love with her. She was an adept at that. Count Kamarsky proved an easy conquest. He had a wife at the time. She brought a suit for divorce against the count, but before the case came up for trial she simplified matters by dying. Then Count Kamarsky and the Countess Tarnovskaya became formally engaged. But marriage with him formed no part of her plans. It was his wealth she coveted, and marriage might prove an obstacle rather than an aid to its complete possession. She got the count to insure his life in her favor for \$100,000. Prilukoff selected the company in which it was taken out. The countess told him to make sure that in case the count was killed there could be no question of disputing the payment. Her next step was to induce the count to execute a will in her favor by which, in the event of his death, the whole of his great fortune would be hers. The count was so madly in love with her that he was willing to accede to her every request.

The one thing remaining to be done to make her an enormously wealthy woman was to get rid of the count. She asked Prilukoff to do the job for her, promising to reward him by marrying him and sharing the count's fortune with him. Whether she ever had any intention of redeeming that pledge is doubtful.

Prilukoff took lessons in shooting and studied other methods of assassination. According to the confession of the countess the plan originally arranged was that Prilukoff should take the same train by which the count was to travel from Vienna to Venice, by some pretext get into the compartment which the count would

have reserved for himself, engage him in conversation, offer him a cigarette, and, when it had rendered him unconscious, shoot him.

It was a risky scheme, and as the time drew nigh for putting it in execution Prilukoff's nerve failed him. But with Prilukoff balking it became necessary to employ a more daring tool to get the count out of the way. The countess summoned Prince Naumoff to Vienna. The prince was only twenty-five, hot-blooded and impetuous, and madly jealous of any one who stood between him and the countess. He had already sent Count Kamarsky a letter threatening to kill him if he cut him out. She told the prince that she had intended to go no further than a flirtation with the count, but that his persecutions had rendered him detestable to her. She assured the prince that he was the only man she had ever really loved, and offered him the same terms as she had offered Prilukoff, and the more venturesome prince eagerly accepted them.

It was plot within a plot, by which it was to be made to appear that the countess and Prilukoff had striven to save the count from the vengeance of his jealous rival. The prince was to kill the count at his villa in Venice, journeying from Vienna for that purpose. Prilukoff preceded him thither with a couple of detectives, and possessed them about the villa. That would substantiate the story he was to tell—and did tell when first arrested—that the countess had dispatched him to Venice to take precautions to insure Count Kamarsky's safety, because she had heard the jealous prince uttered threats against the count's life. And that he, Prilukoff, had really threatened the count's life the letter to the count would prove. As to any charge that she was a party to the plot to murder the count, they were to be met—as they were at first—by her indignation and scornful denials. The pair calculated that, as they had planned things, it would be impossible to prove, what ever the prince might say, that they had any share in the count's assassination.

It was part of the scheme that the detectives were to capture the prince as he left the villa. That they didn't do. Prilukoff with his two men were actually in front of the count's villa when the prince entered it. But he did not tell the detectives that the prince was going there to meet the count. That would have prevented the murder, and the prevention of the murder would, of course, prevent the countess from getting possession of the count's fortune. That was the first point that caused the police to doubt the genuineness of the story told by the countess and Prilukoff that all their efforts had been aimed at saving the count from the danger threatened him.

The only order Prilukoff gave to the detectives was to seize anybody who rushed out of the house. They pounced on a man who ran out to give the alarm, and the prince escaped them, only to be arrested by the Italian police later.

The count lingered for some days after he was shot. The countess and Prilukoff were arrested in Vienna just after they had collected the insurance money on the count's life. Their trial and that of the prince will take place in Venice, where the crime was committed.

A Cat Liar!
"I guess that Tom over there is pretty old," remarked the young Tomcat.
"I should say," replied the other. "Why, he claims that once in his youth he actually saw a bootjack!"—Philadelphia Press.

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SECRETARY'S FRIENDS SEE FIGHT

They Admit that the Governor Will Probably Control the New York Delegation in the National Republican Convention—Hughes Stronger Every Day.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 12.—That the Taft forces now look upon the Hughes boom as the chief danger to which they are exposed is admitted by the followers of the big-digger Secretary of War. There are large numbers of Ohio politicians in high places in the government service, and most of them will now say to you frankly that whether they are friends of Senator Foraker or not, Ohio has but one chance to land the presidency, and that is through Bill Taft, and therefore the only thing that remains to do is to forget their factional differences for the nonce and get Taft nominated.

They all profess to believe that Mr. Roosevelt cannot accept a renomination without breaking faith with the Taft forces, and that he will do no such thing despite the efforts of the Cortelyou-Hitchcock crowd to get him to do so. But it is when you talk about Hughes to them that they begin to feel like the little child going up a dark stair at night by itself. Hughes is the bog-man of the Taft forces, and they admit that he will probably go to the next convention with New York solid, and a fair representation for almost every section of the country. In short, their view of the situation might be summed up in the words of a Taft boomer here, who said today:

"Taft will have no real serious opposition except in Governor Hughes, and there is the man we have got to beat. The other fellows are not going to have a great deal of strength, but Hughes will have followers from everywhere. I am sure that Taft will have a majority of the ballots when things come down to brass tacks, but he will have to get them over Hughes, and it is up to every friend of Taft to watch out for that Hughes boom. It is the sort of a boom that ain't saying much, but is sawing a whole pile of wood. There is nothing surer than that Hughes will be the second strongest man in the convention. My, just think of it; would not Taft and Hughes make a dandy ticket! It would be in politics what the flying wedge was at one time in the football world—invaluable."

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6:15	8:30	6:30	8:45	7:30	7:00	2:50	3:00
7:30	4:15	7:45	4:30	7:30	8:10	3:35	3:45
8:45	5:00	9:00	5:15	8:15	8:30	4:00	4:30
9:30	5:45	9:45	6:00	9:00	4:30	5:05	5:15
10:15	6:30	10:30	6:45	9:45	5:10	5:50	6:00
11:00	7:15	11:15	7:30	10:30	6:00	6:35	6:45
11:45	8:00	12:00	8:15	11:15	7:00	7:20	7:30
12:30	8:45	12:45	9:00	12:00	7:30	8:05	8:15
1:15	9:30	1:30	9:45	12:45	8:15	8:50	9:00
2:00	10:15	2:15	10:30	1:30	9:00	9:30	9:40
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Arrive in New York, B. & O. R. R.	3:00 p. m.
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Lv. New York, B. & O. R. R.	1:00 p. m.
Lv. Philadelphia, Penn. R. R.	2:55 p. m.
Lv. Phila., B. & O. R. R.	2:05 p. m.
Ar. Washington, Penn. R. R.	6:10 p. m.
Ar. Wash., B. & O. R. R.	5:00 p. m.
Lv. Washington	6:20 p. m.
Ar. Old Point Comfort	7:00 a. m.
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